

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/23/2009 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1 and 3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

As to claim 1, the recitation of "a relief printing plate" in line 13 should be amended to "said relief printing plate" in order to clarify the claim.

Additionally, the recitation of "transferring excess coating film from the pixel area to at least one non pixel area" of line 8, claim 1 should be deleted, and the recitation of "the non-pixel forming areas" of line 19, claim 1 should be amended to "non-pixel forming areas" in order to clarify the claim.

As to claim 3, the recitations of "a relief printing plate" in line 10 and "transferring a pattern composed of a coating film" in line 11 should be amended to "said relief printing plate" and "transferring a pattern composed of said coating film", respectively, in order to clarify the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "said coating film" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

It is unclear in claim 3 as to whether the recitation of "the non-pixel forming areas of the silicon blanket" (lines 19-20) is referring to the previously recited "at least one non pixel area" (line 8) because the recitation in line 8 does not specify whether the "at least one non pixel area" is located on the silicon blanket or elsewhere.

The recitation of "said top faces of said two flat plates each consist of an angled flat surface" (lines 16-17) of claim 3 is unclear as to whether the term "consist of" is being used as a closed term that would exclude any additional structure to the "said top faces of said two flat plates". See MPEP 2111.03 [R-3].

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The recitation of "said top faces of said two flat plates each consist of an angled flat surface" raises new matter. The specification only teaches that the flat plates comprises of two angled flat surfaces (Fig. 10B-10C). The recitation encompasses the flat plates having only a single angled flat surface. Applicant has not shown possession of such an embodiment.

Additionally, the specification does not teach that having only a single angled flat surface on the flat plates can maintain the thickness of the coating film in the pixel forming area, but rather only that two angled flat surfaces on the flat plates can achieve this effect.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome objections set forth in this Office action.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not reasonably teach or suggest that the tapered portions of the gravure roll are each located over the non-pixel forming areas of the silicone blanket and are configured to maintain the thickness of the coating film in the pixel forming area by transferring the excess coating liquid in the pixel forming area to the non-pixel areas in combination with the other limitations of the claim.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments, see pg. 5-8, filed 5/11/2009, with respect to claims 1 and 3-5 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of the claims has been withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy Lin whose telephone number is (571)272-8902. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Meeks can be reached on 571-272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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